GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4986
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002
DISABLED POPULATION
PRABHA RAU;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Sample Survey Organisation(NSSO) conducted a house to house survey inmany States to ascertain the exact number of people with disability and the specific services required to be rendered to them ;

(b) whether the number of people with disability has been increased during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to provide the required assistance to the disabled people and also to check the further rise in such cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (b) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) had earlier conducted a survey on disability in1991. Based on the sample survey of NSSO carried out in 1991, approximately 5% of the population isestimated to be suffering from some kind of disability. Recently, NSSO has conducted a survey ondisability through 58th round during the period July-December, 2002. Data regarding this is under compilation.

(c) Dose not arise.

(d) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 enforced since February, 1996, provides for affirmative actionand protective provisions aimed at social, educational and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities. This requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach of all Ministries of the UnionGovernment, the State Governmentsand other appropriate authorities. Action to implement various provisions of the Act has been initiated in right earnest since its adoption. Existing institutions have been strengthened, new institutions/organizations have been set up and the annual outlay for the disability sector has been increased substantially since 1995-96. Institutional services are provided by the six National Institutes/Apex Institutions, Composite RegionalCentres, Regional Rehabilitation Centres for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopedicdisabilities, District Rehabilitation Centres, District Disability Rehabilitation Centres, etc. Theseorganizations inter-alia, disseminate information on prevention of causes of disabilities. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India provides quality aids and appliance forpersons with disabilities at reasonable prices. The National Handicapped Finance & DevelopmentCorporation provides concessional financial assistance to persons with disabilities through the State Channelsing Agencies (SCAs).The Government also supports over 800 NGOs working in the field of disabilities. The National Programmes for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities is underimplementation in the State Sector for creating infrastructure at State/District/Block and GramPanchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the disabled persons. The Government has taken various steps towards ensuring education of children with disabilities through their programmes like Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC), Sarv Shikshya Abhiyan (SSA) and District Primary Educatio Programmes (DPEP).